

III. Remarks

Claims 1-9 stand rejected. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 are being amended. Claim 8 is being cancelled. After entering this amendment, claims 1-7 and 9 remain pending.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to replace the reference to "housing 12" in paragraph [0010] with the correct reference of "housing 14".

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-4 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,351,383, to Payton ("Payton"). Applicants assert the cited reference does not teach every element of the claims and that this rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Specifically, claim 1 as amended recites an assembly comprising a housing having an inner wall and defining an axis, first and second microelectronic modules respectively supported on first and second supports, and a plurality of ribs. The ribs engage the inner wall of the housing and space the first and second microelectronic modules and the first and second supports apart from the inner wall when the microelectronic assembly is coaxially received in the housing. Applicants respectfully assert that the above is not found in the cited reference.

Rather, a careful reading of Payton will reveal that the plungers (44), which the Examiner refers to as ribs, do not engage the inner wall of the housing (12) so as to position the microelectronic modules (80) and supports (30) of Payton spaced apart from the inner wall of the housing (12). Rather, the plungers (44) extend through apertures (42) located inwardly on the perimeter (40) of a thermal plane (36). These apertures contain tensioners (48) which engage in notches (35) in a collar (32). (Payton, column 4, lines 40-45). The collar (32), rather than the plungers (44), disengages and engages the heat conducting device (30) with the housing (12). The plungers (44) do not contact the inner housing (12) and do not position the modules and supports spaced apart from the inner wall of the housing (12). The collars (32) do not engage multiple ones of the thermal planes (36). To the contrary, each collar engages only a single thermal plane. From this, it is submitted that Payton fails to disclose specific claimed features of the present invention. The rejection based thereon should be accordingly withdrawn.

Further, since claims 2-7 and 9 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, the reasons for allowance of claim 1 apply as well to the dependent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

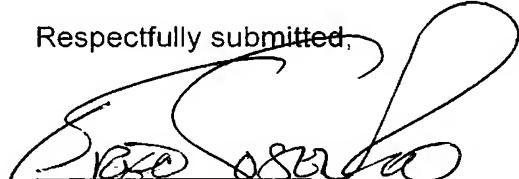
Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payton in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,503,484 to Moxon ("Moxon"). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payton in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,596,140 to Walsh ("Walsh"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As previously noted, Payton fails to disclose a plurality of ribs engaging the inner wall of the housing and spacing the first and second microelectronic modules and the first and second supports apart from the inner wall as recited in amended claim 1. Since claims 2, 5, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1, the reasons for allowance of claim 1 apply as well to these dependent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the allowance of claims 2, 5, 6, and 7 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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